

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
73544 Hwy 64  
Meeker, CO 81641

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**NUMBER:** CO-110-2004-203-EA

**CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER** (optional): TUP COC68203  
ROW COC68204 (CPS 1689 & 1690)  
ROW COC68305 (CPS 1688)

**PROJECT NAME:** Upgrading cathodic protection stations (CPS) 1688, 1689 & 1690

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado  
T. 2 N., R. 100 W.,  
Sec. 9, lot 1.

T. 2 N., R. 103 W.,  
Sec. 7, lot 1, 2;  
Sec. 16, SWNW.

**APPLICANT:** Northwest Pipeline Corporation

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS** (optional): None

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:**

***Background/Introduction:*** An application has been received for the upgrading of three weakened cathodic protection stations on the Ignacio-Sumas line (COC011243 and the Piceance Creek Lateral (COC011409). Since these two rights-of-way were granted prior to the passage of FLPMA, they cannot be amended; therefore, new serial numbers have been assigned for this action. COC68203 will be the temporary use permit, COC68204 will be for CPS 1689 & 1690, and COC68205 will be for CPS 1688.

***Proposed Action:*** At two locations on the Ignacio-Sumas main line and one on the Piceance Creek Lateral the cathodic protection is not at acceptable levels. At these locations Northwest needs to construct new cathodic protection stations that will correct the situation. Cathodic protection facilities are safety measures that inhibit corrosion on the pipeline. The placement of rectifiers will be done on Northwest's existing pipeline easements while temporary workspace will be needed at the deep well locations.

A. Type of facility: A deep well 9<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches in diameter and 300 feet in length (deep) loaded with 20 anodes.

B. Related structures and facilities:

CPS 1688: Approximately 287 feet of positive cable leading from a new rectifier located within Northwest's existing easement, northwesterly to the deep well location. (287' x 20' = 0.13 acres).

CPS 1689: Approximately 200 feet of positive cable leading from a new rectifier located with Northwest's existing easement, northwesterly to the deep well location. (200' x 20' = 0.09 acres).

CPS 1690: Approximately 500 feet of positive cable to be placed from a new rectifier located within Northwest's existing easement, northeasterly to the deep well location. (500' x 20' = 0.23 acres).

C. A permanent right-of-way easement will be 20 feet in width on each side to the rectifier, positive cable and deep well.

The right-of-way term will run concurrent with the original grants for COC011243 and COC011409. The temporary use permit will have a term of one year. These actions will be authorized by Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

**No Action Alternative:** The no action alternative would deny the application and the present situation would continue.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:**

**NEED FOR THE ACTION:** An application has been received for the upgrading of three weakened cathodic protection stations.

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:** The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values".

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES /  
MITIGATION MEASURES:**

**STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH:** In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

**AIR QUALITY**

*Affected Environment:* There are no special air quality designations or non-attainment areas in the vicinity of the proposed action.

*Impact of Proposed Action:* The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. However, airborne particulate matter should not exceed Colorado air quality standards on an hourly or daily basis.

*Impact of No Action Alternative:* Impacts are not anticipated from the no-action alternative.

*Mitigation:* None

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

*Affected Environment:* CPS 1688: The proposed cathodic protection station area has been inventoried at the Class III (1005 pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2004, Compliance Dated 9/3/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the proposed work area.

CPS 1689: The proposed cathodic protection station area has been inventoried at the Class III (1005 pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2004, Compliance Dated 9/3/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the proposed work area.

CPS 1690: The proposed cathodic protection station area has been inventoried at the Class III (1005 pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2004, Compliance Dated 9/3/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the proposed work area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* CPS 1688: The proposed action will not impact any known cultural resources.

CPS 1689: The proposed cathodic protection station area has been inventoried at the Class III (1005 pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2004, Compliance Dated 9/3/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the proposed work area.

CPS 1690: The proposed cathodic protection station area has been inventoried at the Class III (1005 pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2004, Compliance Dated 9/3/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the proposed work area.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

*Mitigation:* For CPS 1688, CPS 1689, and CPS 1690: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

## **INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

*Affected Environment:* No inventory has been conducted as a result of this project, and as such no statement can be made as to whether noxious weeds occur on the project site. Several noxious weed species are of concern or occur in the area including; Bull, musk and Canada thistle, Russian, diffuse and spotted knapweed, mullein and cheatgrass.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action would disturb soils creating suitable habitat for noxious weed establishment. Additionally, construction equipment and support vehicles have been shown to transport noxious weed seeds and plant parts. With compliance with the mitigation measures described below there would not be any adverse impacts to the site or adjacent plant communities.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no impacts.

*Mitigation:* From the WRRRA, RMP or 1997, Appendix B Applicant is responsible for monitoring the site for the presence of noxious weed species.

179. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

180. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

181. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

182. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

183. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

184. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

*Affected Environment:* Each of the 3 sites is situated along an existing, herbaceous-dominated pipeline corridor in a larger big sagebrush complex. Green-tailed towhee and Brewer's sparrow, birds of higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory Partners-in-Flight program), are common breeding species that fulfill nesting functions in these habitats from May through July.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Installation of these stations would require about 2 weeks beginning in November 2004--a timeframe well outside the

breeding season of migratory birds. The proposed action would have no influence on the nesting activity of migratory birds.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no action authorized that would have potential to disrupt the breeding activities of migratory birds.

*Mitigation:* None.

**THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES** (includes a finding on Standard 4)

*Affected Environment:* The area surrounding CPS 1690 is broadly encompassed by white-tailed prairie dog habitat. This station would be located immediately adjacent to paved RBC 21 and would lie on the edge of a mapped prairie dog town. The proposed deep well and 500' of cable would extend to the northeast, away from occupied habitat.

Prairie dogs and their burrow systems are important components of burrowing owl habitat, as well as potential habitat for reintroduced populations of black-footed ferret. Burrowing owls, a State threatened species are uncommon in this Resource Area. These birds return to occupy a maintained burrow system in early April and begin nesting soon after. Most birds have left the area by September.

Under the auspices of a non-essential, experimental population rule, black-footed ferrets have been released annually in Coyote Basin (2 miles south of CPS 1690) since 1999. There is no effective barrier between the project site and Coyote Basin and ferrets could be expected to use surrounding prairie dog burrows. Ferrets are wholly reliant on prairie dogs for food and shelter. Ferret breeding activities begin in early March, with birthing beginning in early May. Young ferrets generally begin to emerge by mid-July.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Proposed CPS 1690 would intersect few, if any, prairie dog burrow systems and would have no reasonable potential to directly influence (e.g., direct mortality) white-tailed prairie dogs, black-footed ferret, or burrowing owl. Reproductive activities of prairie dogs and the 2 prairie dog associates could be fulfilled in surrounding habitat from March through August. However, project timeframes are such that all installation and reclamation activities would be completed by late December. Surface disturbance attributable to this action is diminutive (0.25 acre) and, because of its narrow linear nature, would likely have little consequence on the future distribution of prairie dogs or associated species (e.g., breaking of heavy soils via trenching often attracts prairie dog burrowing activity). The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on populations, reproductive activities, or habitats associated with prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, or burrowing owl.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no potential influence on prairie dogs as habitat for burrowing owl and black-footed ferret.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species:* The lands surrounding CPS 1690 currently meet the Land Health Standards for special status species. Installation of this CPS would have no short or long-term influence on populations or habitat associated with white-tailed prairie dog, black-footed ferret, or burrowing owl and therefore would not interfere with continued meeting of the standard. The no-action alternative would similarly have no influence on continued meeting of the standard.

## **WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID**

*Affected Environment:* There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

*Mitigation:* The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

## **WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)**

*Affected Environment:* CPS 1690 and CPS 1689 are in Dripping Rock Drainage and CPS 1688 is in Gillam Draw. Both drainages are ephemeral and flow in direct response to snow melt and summer/fall rain storms. Water quality of runoff is well within the standards set by the state.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Impacts to water quality from the proposed action would be similar to other surface disturbing activities. Some of the impacts would be exposure of soil surface to wind and water erosion, reduced water quality due to erosion of sediment and salt, off disturbed areas, and piping or rill erosion where construction disturbance is exposed to climatic elements. These impacts would be short term until re-vegetation has occurred.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Impacts are not anticipated from not allowing the proposed action.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality:* The proposed action will have no effect on the watershed's ability to meet these water quality standards

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:**

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, riparian/wetland/aquatic communities, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, and threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For riparian/wetland/aquatic communities and threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species, the Public Land Health Standards are not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on these communities, or populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

**NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS**

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

**SOILS** (includes a finding on Standard 1)

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action is in a previously disturbed area. The soils have been mapped in an Order III Soil Survey by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for Rio Blanco County. The table below identifies the soils affected by the proposed action.

Proposed action	Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
CPS 1688	21	Cliffdown-Cliffdown Variant complex	5-65%	Salt desert Breaks	<2	Medium to slow	Slight to moderate	>60
CPS 1689	94	Turley fine sandy loam	3-8%	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60
CPS 1690	95	Uffens loam	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes	4-8	Slow	Moderate	>60

Impacts to soils would include increased erosion and sedimentation, from overland flows due to removal of vegetation; soil compaction; and exposure of underlying soil layers. These impacts would be short term during the construction phase and for a period after construction providing successful and timely reclamation occurs.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* Impacts from the no-action alternative are not expected.

*Mitigation:* No additional mitigation is necessary.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils:* Maintenance of the three CPS within existing right-of-way disturbance would have no measurable influence on upland soils and would not interfere with continued meeting of the standard.

## **VEGETATION** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* Proposed project is on previously disturbed vegetation which has been reclaimed/

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The proposed action would disturb the seeded reclamation species. Following reclamation the site would be the same as before the project.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no change from the existing situation.

*Mitigation:* None

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The site would not be changed adversely and would meet the standard for plant community health.

## **WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL** (includes a finding on Standard 3)

*Affected Environment:* The proposed CP stations are encompassed by low elevation big game winter ranges. Although animals are widely distributed on these ranges from October through May, these habitats' primary function is served during the late winter (maximum snowpack) and early spring (earliest emerging green-up) months.

There is no suitable raptor nest substrate associated with any of the 3 proposed sites. Other small mammals and birds using this area are typical and widely distributed in extensive like habitats across the Resource Area and northwest Colorado; there are no narrowly endemic or highly specialized species known to inhabit those lands potentially influenced by this action.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* Installation and reclamation activities associated with this proposal would require about 2 weeks beginning in November 2004--a timeframe that is asynchronous with important seasonal uses of big game or nongame animals, including their breeding seasons. Surface disturbance and disruptive activity attributable to this action is short term, diminutive, and dispersed (4-5 days at each site; a total of 0.5 acre along 26 miles of pipeline corridor) and would have no conceivable influence on habitat utility or the availability of forage or cover for big game or nongame species at any resource scale.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no action authorized that would have potential to adversely affect terrestrial animal populations or habitats.

*Mitigation:* None.

*Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities* (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The lands surrounding the proposed CPS currently meet the Land Health Standards for terrestrial wildlife. Installation and subsequent reclamation of these CPS sites would have no short or long-term influence on terrestrial wildlife populations or associated habitats and therefore would not interfere with continued meeting of the standard. The no-action alternative would similarly have no influence on continued meeting of the standard.

**OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS:** For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise	X		
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

## PALEONTOLOGY

*Affected Environment:* CPS 1688: The proposed work area is in an area mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources.

CPS 1689: the proposed work area is in an area mapped as the Mancos Shale/Sego Sandstone/Buck Tongue of the Mancos Shale (Tweto 1979). The BLM has classified these formations as Condition II or Condition III formations meaning they are not particularly noted

for production of scientifically important fossil resources though the Mancos has, on rare occasions in other areas, produced vertebrate fossils.

CPS 1690: the proposed work area is in an area mapped as the Sege Sandstone/Buck Tongue of the Mancos Shale (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a condition III formation meaning that it is not currently known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* CPS 1688: Provided that the only excavation into the bedrock formation is the drill hole itself there is limited potential for the proposed action to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

CPS 1689: There is very little likelihood that the proposed action will impact scientifically important fossil at this CPS location.

CPS 1690: There is very little likelihood that the proposed action will impact scientifically important fossil at this CPS location.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

*Mitigation:* CPS 1688: If for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock, other than the drill hole for the anode bed, a monitor shall be required during all such excavations.

CPS 1689: If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

CPS 1690: If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

## **RECREATION**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The CPS 1690 project area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high

probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk. CPS project areas for 1688 and 1689 are located within a ROS class of Roaded Natural (RN). RN setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area. However, from sensitive travel routes and use areas these alterations would remain unnoticed or visually subordinate. Frequency of contact is: Moderate to high on roads; Low to Moderate on trails and away from roads. Structures are generally scattered, remaining visually subordinate or unnoticed to the sensitive travel route observer. Structures may include utility corridors, microwave installations and so on.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists. Both SPM and RN classifications will continue to be met.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

*Mitigation:* None.

## **VISUAL RESOURCES**

*Affected Environment:* The proposed actions are located in an area with a VRM III classification. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

*Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:* The major components of the proposed actions would be located below the surface and not in view of a casual observer. By painting any facilities above ground Juniper Green to mimic woody vegetation, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low, and the objectives of the VRM III classification would be retained.

*Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:* There would be no additional environmental consequences.

*Mitigation:* Paint any above ground facilities Juniper Green.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:** Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development were analyzed in the White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) completed in June 1996. Current development, including the proposed action, has not exceeded the cumulative impacts from the foreseeable development analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

## **REFERENCES CITED**

Fetterman, Jerry

2004 Cultural Resource Survey of Three CPS Sites in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Yellow Jacket, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

**PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:** None

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Robert Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

# **Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)**

## **CO-110-2004-203-EA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE:** The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

**DECISION/RATIONALE:** It is my decision to approve the temporary use permit and the upgrade of Cathodic Protection Stations #1689, 1690, and 1688 in connection with the Ignacio/Sumas pipeline (COC011243) and the Piceance Basin Lateral pipeline (COC011409). The proposed action is in concert with the objectives of the White River ROD/RMP in that it would allow for the upgrading of existing facilities due to normal aging in a manner that provides reasonable protection of other resource values. Protection for other resource values will be assured by implementation of the mitigation measures described below and attached to the right-of-way grant as stipulations.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES:**

1. For CPS 1688, CPS 1689, and CPS 1690: The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. For CPS 1688, CPS 1689 and CPS 1690; pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
3. From the White River ROD/RMP, 1997, Appendix B: Applicant is responsible for monitoring the site for the presence of noxious weed species.
4. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.
5. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.
6. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.
7. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.
8. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.
9. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.
10. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.
11. CPS 1688: If for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock, other than the drill hole for the anode bed, a monitor shall be required during all such excavations.
12. CPS 1689: If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.
13. CPS 1690: If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determined the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

14. All above ground facilities will be painted Juniper Green to blend with the surrounding environment.

**COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:** Compliance will be conducted every five years by the realty staff.

**NAME OF PREPARER:** Penny Brown *Penny Brown*

**NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR:** Caroline Hollowed

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:** *Vern R. Hill*  
*Vern* Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:** *11/29/04*

**ATTACHMENTS:** Location map of the proposed action.

# Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2004-203-EA



